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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301



SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

November 3, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Study of U.S. Air Operations in Laos (S)

In his October 25, 1969 memorandum (copy enclosed), the Deputy Secretary of Defense requested a coordinated study of the effectiveness of our present air operations in Laos, particularly the interdiction program in southern Laos. He has assigned to me the primary responsibility for developing this study, with inputs from other offices.

The assistance of your staffs could add much to the study, and I would appreciate your participation. Please have your representative contact Mr. Philip Odeen, (OX 5-7341) as soon as possible.

Luftlin

*Confirmed with
Odeen that
Paul would would
represent the agency at
1500 hrs meeting 3 NOV.
DMS*

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OSD Review Completed.
Declassified and Released as
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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

25 OCT 1969



MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (SYSTEMS ANALYSIS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS)

The Under Secretary of State believes, and I concur, that it would be useful to undertake a coordinated study of the effectiveness of our present air operations in Laos, particularly those in south Laos. Discussions of the recent SEACORDS meeting, continuing differences of opinion concerning effectiveness of our air interdiction campaign, White House interest in Laos and increased military activities by both sides in Laos make a critical and factual analysis imperative.

Request that such a study be developed by 20 November with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Systems Analysis) having primary responsibility, and with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) providing input and comments at the appropriate stages. The study should include answers to the following questions:

- What are the costs and results of U.S. air operations in Laos?
- ✓ -- What are the enemy's current requirements for men and materiel in SVN and Laos, and could this level be raised?
- What is the level to which the enemy's logistical capability is reduced by air operations at current rates? Could this level be reduced further, assuming reasonable levels of effort and current operating authorities?
- What would be the effect of a bombing halt or substantial reduction in our air operations in Laos? What would the enemy do if this occurred?
- What would be the effects of an increase in air operations in Laos? An incremental decrease?

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CIA 101

ASD (SA) CONT. NR. 69-393

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- What are the political factors (domestic U.S., Republic of Vietnam, North Vietnam and in Laos) involved in increases or decreases in the U.S. interdiction campaign? (including ground interdiction operations) (CIA and ISA input)
- What are the possible trade-offs and/or courses of action in the event a political decision is made to reduce U.S. air operations in Laos?

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